

Atty. Docket No.: TREND-00102

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY****DECLARATION:**

As below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

The below named inventor is the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR READING AND CONTROLLING  
UTILITY CONSUMPTION**

the specification of which is attached hereto,

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

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**PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATIONS**

Number	Country	Date Filed	Priority Claimed (Yes/No)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) regarding events which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

**PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATIONS**

Application Serial Number	Filing Date	Status
09/896,159; U.S. Pat. No. 6,622,097	June 28, 2001	Patented
10/615,572	July 8, 2003	Pending

I hereby declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

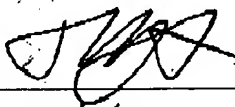
I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) with full power of substitution to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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Inventor's Full Name:	Robert R. Hunter
Inventor's Signature:	
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